



*Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) are the engines that drive the continuous improvement process. In PLCs, educators work collaboratively to address the Critical Questions of Learning...*

## THE CRITICAL QUESTIONS OF LEARNING

### What knowledge and skills do we expect our students to learn?

- ◆ PLC teams will determine the essential learnings, taken from the district scope & sequence, which each student must acquire during the designated time period (i.e. unit or grading period).
- ◆ PLC teams will determine the most logical sequence in which to present the content, how much time they will spend on the initial instruction of each essential learning, and when they will stop instruction to collectively ask, "How do we know each student is learning what we are teaching?"

### How will we know if our students have learned expected outcomes?

- ◆ PLC teams will create and implement common formative assessments (that assess the established essential learnings) at approximately the same time.
- ◆ PLC teams will compare the results of common formative assessments from each class, identify weak areas in each class, and share ideas about how to adapt instruction to better meet the students' needs.
- ◆ PLC teams will reflect on common assessments, anecdotal records, unit tests, work sampling, observations, etc. to determine growth over time and evaluate the progress of the students who are being targeted.

### How will we respond, individually and collectively, when our students have difficulty learning expected outcomes?

- ◆ PLC teams will determine strategies for improving student performance in specific students or student groups.
- ◆ PLC teams will provide extra time and support for struggling students through a building-wide systematic intervention plan.

### How will we respond, individually and collectively, when our students have already learned expected outcomes?

- ◆ PLC teams will determine strategies to enrich and extend the learning for students who have already mastered grade-level content, and give them opportunities to achieve at higher levels.

### How can we use the evidence of student learning to inform and improve our practice?

- ◆ PLC team members will share evidence of student learning with each other, identify areas of need, and share strategies for adapting instruction to better meet students' needs.
- ◆ PLC teams will look to other staff members, staff development opportunities, professional reading, and site visits to learn about best practice and develop strategies to improve instruction.
- ◆ PLC team members will test new strategies in the classroom and work together to evaluate the impact on student achievement.